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Letter dated 10 January 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Council of Citizens' Committee for Foreign Policy and Foreign Economic Relations and the Council of the Republics' Committee for Foreign Policy and Foreign Economic Relations of the Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Maintenance of international security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement made on 6 January 1995 by the Council of Citizens' Committee for Foreign Policy and Foreign Economic Relations and the Council of the Republics' Committee for Foreign Policy and Foreign Economic Relations of the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia concerning the declaration on the former Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly

The Council of Citizens' Committee for Foreign Policy and Foreign Economic Relations and the Council of the Republics' Committee for Foreign Policy and Foreign Economic Relations of the Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as well as the entire Yugoslav public received with indignation and great dissatisfaction the declaration on the former Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 1 December 1994, recently circulated as the annex to document A/49/795-S/1994/1428 of 19 December 1994. By this explicitly anti-Yugoslav and anti-Serb document, Turkey has confirmed once again its biased approach to the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis and particularly to the conflict in this former Yugoslav republic.

The declaration of the Turkish Grand National Assembly demonstrates that Turkey is persistent in its unfounded and militant policy, based on the fiction of "Serbian aggression", abandoned by the most important international figures who have assessed that a civil war was at stake. Bosnian Serbs have been living in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina for centuries, constituting the majority population, they were a constituent people and today they account for more than one third of the population. It is obvious that Serbs cannot be aggressors against their own country. The conflict broke out because, contrary to the provisions on the consensus of the three constituent peoples of the Constitution of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with the support of foreign entities, attempts were made to impose the concept of unitary constitutional order under which the Serb people would become a national minority and be forced to live under Muslim domination. Turkey was among the first countries to spearhead the support and to recognize the independence of such a Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By its one-sided approach, Turkey objectively encourages the war option, which makes it increasingly isolated because of the growing awareness in the world that a just and lasting solution in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina can be reached only by political means, on the basis of equal respect of the interests of all three parties, which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been consistently advocating from the very outset of the crisis. By its position, which essentially undermines the peace efforts and encourages instability in the region, Turkey has disqualified itself as a factor in the peaceful settlement of the crisis. Thereby, the credibility of its participation in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the Coordination Committee of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia has been brought into question.

The Turkish Grand National Assembly calls for the protection of "Bosnian people", ignoring the fact that there neither was a Bosnian nation nor "Bosnian people" in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, but three equal, constituent

peoples. At the same time, the fact that the Turkish Assembly has not requested protection for the other two peoples in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina is a gross discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin and religion in breach of the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant United Nations acts and the basic principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This illustrates, inter alia, the Greater Turkish expansionist goals and dreams of the return of Turkey to the Balkans. Along these lines too are the statements made at the time by the highest Turkish personalities on the "Turkish world from the Adriatic Sea to the Great Wall of China".

The Turkish Grand National Assembly has been closing its eyes to the numerous examples of flagrant violation of human rights in Turkey itself, particularly to the internal war of the Turkish Army against the Kurds, who are denied fundamental national and political rights. If Turkey wishes to qualify itself morally to call on others and to teach them lessons, it must first resolve its own problems in a democratic way.

By pursuing its anti-Yugoslav and anti-Serb policy, continually advocating the use of force against the Serb people and interfering in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Turkey has brought its relations with Yugoslavia to the lowest point this century, endangering their very basis.

From the outset of the Yugoslav crisis, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been consistently committed to a peaceful and political settlement as the only realistic approach. This approach leads to the stabilization of the situation not only in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, but of the entire region, which is in the interest of all Balkan countries.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has a sincere and lasting interest in dialogue, normalization of relations and development of cooperation with Turkey, on the basis of equality and mutual respect. To that end, Turkey should eliminate the obstacles and adopt a more balanced position as regards the Yugoslav crisis and the situation in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, cease its interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by supporting the separatists in Kosovo and Metohija and Raška, and put an end to the insulting anti-Yugoslav and anti-Serb campaign based on fabrications.